

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in the application. Claims 10-16, 24 and 25 have been allowed. Claims 3, 22 and 27 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 18 and 26 have been amended. To expedite the prosecution, claims 2-4, 17, 21, 22, 27 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims in a continuation application. Thus, after entry of the claim amendments, claims 1, 5-16, 18-20, and 23-26 remain in the present application

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 10-16, 24 and 25. Claims 3, 22 and 27 were objected to. The Applicant has included the limitations of claims 3, 22 and 27 and all intervening limitations in their respective independent claims (claims 1, 18 and 26).

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable. Claims 5-9, which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 1, should be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 21 and 22. Thus, claim 18 should be allowable. Claims 19, 20 and 23, which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 18, should be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27. Thus, claim 26 should be allowable.

Drawing Objection

Claims 4 and 28 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings did not show the minor platform panels being under the top platform. Claims 4 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice so therefore this objection is moot.



Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 17-21, 23, 26 and 28 were rejected in the Office Action. As discussed above, claims 1, 18 and 26 has been amended to include the respective limitations and any intervening limitations of claims 3, 22 and 27, which were objected to. Thus, claims 1, 18 and 26 are allowable. All of the claims that depend from these claims are allowable (claims 5-9, 19, 20 and 23). Claims 4, 17 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice so these rejections are rendered moot. Therefore, these claims rejections are rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Thus, claims 1, 5-16, 18-20 and 23-26 should all be in a condition for allowance and the Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that no fee is presently due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47088-00046.

Respectfully submitted,

March 22, 2004

Dated

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Gatz", written over a horizontal line.

John C. Gatz

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